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Signed: Mary A. McCauley
Mary A. McCauley

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Prior Application of:)
Victor H. Shear, et al.) Group Art Unit: 3662
Prior Serial No.: 09/678,830) Examiner: S. Buczinski
Filed: October 4, 2000)
For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR)
USING CRYPTOGRAPHY TO)
PROTECT SECURE COMPUTING)
ENVIRONMENTS)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination, please amend this application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-43 and add new claims 44-49 as follows:

44. (New) A method including the following:

at a certification authority, receiving an executable program generated by a party
independent of the certification authority;

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
STANFORD RESEARCH PARK
700 HANSEN WAY
PALO ALTO, CALIF. 94304
650-849-6600

at the certification authority, determining that no specification is available to the certification authority adequately describing the operations of the executable program;

at the certification authority, testing the executable program and, based on the results of the testing, generating a specification describing the operation of the executable program; and

at the certification authority, generating a digital certificate certifying that the executable program operates in the manner described in the specification.

45. (New) A method as in claim 44, further including:

receiving the executable program at a user site;

receiving the digital certificate at the user site;

at the user site, evaluating the digital certificate to determine if the digital certificate is associated with the executable program;

at the site site, evaluating the digital certificate to determine whether to execute the executable program; and

at the user site, executing the executable program, the execution being dependent on the evaluation of the digital certificate.

46. (New) A method as in claim 45, in which:

the digital certificate specifies a security level, and

the user site evaluation of the digital certificate to determine whether to execute the executable program includes comparing the security level to a required security level.

LAW OFFICES

INNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
TANFORD RESEARCH PARK
700 HANSEN WAY
PALO ALTO, CALIF. 94304
650-849-6600

47. (New) A method as in claim 45, in which:

the user site evaluation of the digital certificate to determine if the digital certificate is associated with the executable program includes comparing a hash value stored in the digital certificate to at least a portion of the executable program.

48. (New) A method as in claim 47, in which:

the hash value comparison is preceded by the user site decrypting the hash value using a public key associated with the certification authority.

49. (New) A method as in claim 45, in which:

the digital certificate includes the specification, and the step of evaluating the digital certificate to determine whether to execute the executable program includes evaluating the specification.

REMARKS

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 6, 2001

By: *Linda J. Thayer*
Linda J. Thayer
Reg. No. 45,681

LAW OFFICES

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
TANFORD RESEARCH PARK
700 HANSEN WAY
PALO ALTO, CALIF. 94304
650-849-6600